

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY REGION II EDISON, NEW JERSEY 08837

POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

COMPLETED FILE COPY

Site Name: Brooklyn Union Gas Company--Belmont Works

Address: Belmont and Alabama Avenues, Brooklyn, NY 11207

County: Kings

EPA I.D. No.: NYD980532097

Summary:

This was formerly the site of a coal-gasification plant, purchased by Brooklyn Union Gas (B.U.G.) Company near the turn of the century. One of the by-products produced during the plant's operating years was a hydrocarbon tar which was temporarily stored on site until sold for use in roofing or road surfacing. According to B.U.G., when the plant was decommissioned in 1900, all remaining tars were reportedly removed and the facility was razed. Ownership and use of the property since 1900 is unknown.

Priority for Inspection:	High
	Medium
	Low X (See attachment to Part 1 of PA form.)
	None

Recommendations:

Keep informed of NYSDEC's planned inspections of all B.U.G. sites and obtain a copy of each inspection report as completed (request already made in 7/23/86 letter to Sudhir Jagirdar of NYSDEC).

Prepared by: Amy J. Brochu, Environmental Engineer
U.S. EPA, Environmental Services Division

Date: August 14, 1986_

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POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE

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Amy J. Brochu	IPA	الحظ ا	A DARY PEL	fnd (201)	フリローロび UZ	MONTH I	DAY YEAR

Attachment to PA Form

Background on Former Coal-Gasification Plants (Brooklyn Union Gas Company Sites)

The thirteen Brooklyn Union Gas locations labelled as "Works" are all former coal-gasification plants that began recovering natural gas from coal and oil for sale and distribution to customers in the mid-1800's. Just before the turn of the century, the Brooklyn Union Gas Company (B.U.G.) began purchasing these small plants. By 1950, eight of the thirteen works purchased by B.U.G. had been decommissioned and the remaining five plants were shut down during the following decade. Today, according to B.U.G., nothing remains of the original facilities; in fact, most of the properties were sold by B.U.G. and reportedly paved over as parking lots or playgrounds or excavated for building construction. (In a few cases, B.U.G. retained some property in the vicinity and constructed a gate station there; however, the gate stations were reportedly not built on the same sites as the old facilities but, rather, across the street or on the corner of the lot.)

When the gas manufacturing plants were still in operation, a by-product of their processes was a hydrocarbon tar which contained amounts of the following hazardous substances: benzene, pyridine, cresols, naphthalene, toluene, hydrogen sulfide, and phenol. (For this reason, Brooklyn Union Gas Company filed a "Notification of Hazardous Waste Site" form for each of these locations in 1981.) This by-product tar was temporarily stored in holding tanks at the plants until it could be sold for use in roofing or road surfacing, or sold to chemical companies for its constituents. As each plant was decommissioned, all remaining tars were reportedly removed from the holding tanks and sold, and the facilities themselves were razed (according to record searches and investigations conducted by B.U.G. back in 1981).

Because all of these facilities were torn down at least 25 years ago and some of the sites are now covered with pavement or buildings, it would be difficult to determine whether any significant spills of hazardous materials had occurred during the operation of the coal gasification plants. Even if some tar had been spilled, the contaminated soils would most likely have been mixed throughout the clean soils when the sites were cleared of the old facilities. Therefore, there is little reason to suspect that anything more than trace amounts of tar would remain in the soils at each site today. And, because area groundwater is not used as a potable water supply, any leachate from the sites is of minimal concern.

Nevertheless, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) currently has plans to inspect all of the Broooklyn Union Gas locations by the end of the calendar year. In view of the difficulties mentioned above, the inspections may serve only to confirm that the sites were indeed completely cleared of the gas manufacturing plants (as B.U.G. maintains) and and that new structures have been built there. Instead of duplicating State efforts, EPA has arranged to be kept informed of all NYSDEC inspections conducted at B.U.G. sites (both former and existing) and to be copied on the individual inspection reports as each one is completed. Therefore, the need for an EPA inspection has been given a "low" priority in Part 1 of the PA forms completed for these thirteen former coal-gasification sites.

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POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE

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"Notification of Hazardous Waste Site", filed 6/81 (with attachment by B.U.G.) Katherine Hartnett, Technical Analyst, Brooklyn Union Gas Company

POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE

L IDENTIFICATION

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IL HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS AND INCIDENTS			
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01 D B. SURFACE WATER CONTAMINATION 03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:	02 □ OBSERVED (DATE:) 04 NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION	☐ POTENTIAL	C ALLEGED
01 TO C. CONTAMINATION OF AIR 03 POPULATION POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:	02: D OBSERVED (DATE:) 04: NARRATIVE DESCRIPTION	C POTENTIAL	C ALLEGED
01 □ D. FIRE/EXPLOSIVE CONDITIONS	02 🗆 OBSERVED (DATE:)	☐ POTENTIAL	[] ALLEGED
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POTENTIAL HAZARDOUS WASTE SITE PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT

I. IDENTIFICATION O1 STATE 02 SITE NUMBER

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Katherine Hartnett, Technical Analyst, Brooklyn Union Gas Company

Sept. 4884